

REMARKS

This Response is offered in reply to the office action of November 14, 2003. A petition and fee for a two month time extension are enclosed.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate allowance of claims 19-26, 28-31, and 33-35. Claim 19 has been amended to delete a redundant recitation "along a length thereof" to therefore place claim 19 in better form under 35 USC 112.

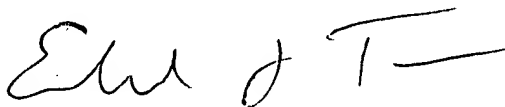
On page 2 of the office action, claims 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Christin et al. US patent 5 904 957.

Applicants have cancelled claims 36 and 37 without prejudice to advance prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to continue to prosecute claims 36 and 37 by way of continuation application or other means.

Applicants have amended page 12 of the specification to include the terminology "manifold wall" which appears in the claims, thus merely conforming the claims and the specification, and to correct a typographical error.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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enclosure: Postal card

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 12, 2004.

